



National Park Service  
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Lava Beds National  
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## Lava Beds National Monument News Release

September 8, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact: Superintendent David F. Kruse, 530-667-8101

### **Lava Beds, Crater Lake Superintendents to Host Screening of Trailer for New Ken Burns Documentary on National Parks at Ross Ragland Theater**

**Tulelake, CA** – Lava Beds Superintendent Dave Kruse and Crater Lake Superintendent Craig Ackerman are pleased to announce that they will be hosting a screening at the Ross Ragland Theater in Klamath Falls on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM as part of their Monday night film series. The Ross Ragland Theater is located at 218 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Klamath Falls. Brief presentations about Lava Beds and Crater Lake will be followed by a 45-minute trailer for the upcoming documentary, “National Parks: America’s Best Idea.” There is no charge for the event, though donations to support the Ross Ragland’s programs are accepted.


The Ross Ragland screening will provide a preview of the full documentary directed by renowned filmmaker Ken Burns and co-produced with historian Dayton Duncan. “America’s Best Idea” is the story of an idea as uniquely American as the Declaration of Independence and just as radical: that the most special places in the nation should be preserved, not for royalty or the rich, but for everyone. As such, it follows in the tradition of Burns’ exploration of other American inventions, such as baseball and jazz.

Filmed over the course of more than six years in some of nature’s most spectacular locales — from Acadia to Yosemite, Yellowstone to the Grand Canyon, the Everglades of Florida to the Gates of the Arctic in Alaska — the documentary is nonetheless a story of people from every conceivable background: rich and poor; famous and unknown; soldiers and scientists; natives and newcomers; idealists, artists and entrepreneurs; people who were willing to devote themselves to saving some precious portion of the land they loved, and in doing so, reminded their fellow citizens of the full meaning of democracy.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



The narrative traces the birth of the national park idea in the mid-1800s and follows its evolution for nearly 150 years. Using archival photographs, first-person accounts of historical characters, personal memories and analysis from more than 40 interviews, and what Burns believes is the most stunning cinematography in Florentine Films' history and the most contemporary footage of any Ken Burns film since "Lewis and Clark," the series chronicles the steady addition of new parks through the stories of the people who helped create them and save them from destruction. It is simultaneously a biography of compelling characters and of the American landscape.

The new 12-hour, six-part series premieres on PBS stations beginning Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Episode one will air multiple times throughout its premiere date. PBS will then debut a new episode of the film each evening through Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, with episodes immediately repeating on the same night they premiere. More information about the series, its companion book, and additional educational and community resources can be found at:

[www.pbs.org/nationalparks](http://www.pbs.org/nationalparks).

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